

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-11 are pending in this case. Claims 1, 5, and 9 are amended by the present amendment. Changes to Claim 1, 5, and 9 are supported in the originally-filed disclosure at least at Figures 1 and 2 and at page 28, lines 6-19, and, therefore, add no new matter.

The outstanding Office Action rejected Claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Yokoi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,487,149, herein "Yokoi").

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 1 is directed to a disc drive and includes:

- an amplitude variation signal generator directly connected to the push-pull signal generator and configured to generate and output a fundamental amplitude variation signal indicating the fundamental amplitude variation of the push-pull signal;
- an offset signal generator configured to generate an offset signal;
- a reference signal generator connected to the amplitude variation signal generator and to the offset signal generator and configured to generate a reference signal by adding the offset signal received from the offset signal generator to the fundamental amplitude variation signal received from the amplitude variation signal generator; and
- a pre-pit detector directly connected to the push-pull signal generator and to the reference signal generator and configured to compare the push-pull signal with the reference signal and outputting a comparison result as a pre-pit detection signal.

The outstanding Office Action incorporated the rejection detailed in the Office Action dated May 2, 2007. At page 5 of the Office Action dated May 2, 2007, the peak hold circuit 30 of Yokoi is cited as an amplitude variation signal generator, the differential amplifier 63 is

cited as the push-pull signal generator, the summing amplifier 32 is cited as the reference signal generator, and the comparator 34 is cited as the pre-pit detector.¹

However, the peak hold circuit 30 of Yokoi does not teach or suggest “an amplitude variation signal generator directly connected to the push-pull signal and configured to generate and output a fundamental amplitude variation signal indicating the fundamental amplitude variation of the push-pull signal,” as recited in Claim 1. First, the peak hold circuit 30 of Yokoi is not “directly connected to the push-pull signal,” which is asserted as the output of the differential amplifier 63, but, rather, to the output of the bandpass filter 13. Further, because the input to the peak hold circuit 30 of Yokoi is the wobble signal output from the bandpass filter 13 rather than a push-pull signal, the peak hold circuit 30 does not output a signal “indicating the fundamental amplitude variation of the push-pull signal,” as recited in Claim 1.

Additionally, the comparator 34 of Yokoi does not teach or suggest a pre-pit detector as recited in Claim 1 because the comparator 34 of Yokoi is not “directly connected to the push-pull signal generator,” as recited in Claim 1 but, rather, to the output of the highpass filter 10.

Because Yokoi does not teach or suggest at least an amplitude variation signal generator and a pre-pit detector as recited in Claim 1, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) of Claim 1 and Claims 2-4, which depend therefrom, be withdrawn.

Claim 5 includes the amplitude variation signal generator and pre-pit detector as recited in Claim 1. Thus, for the reasons discussed above with respect to Claim 1, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) of Claim 5 and Claims 6-8, which depend therefrom, be withdrawn.

¹ The Office Action of May 2, 2007 states “Figure 2, Element 32, comparator outputting pre-pit signal”, but this is believed to be an erroneous reference to the comparator 34.

Claim 9 is directed to a method of detecting pre-pits and includes “generating and outputting a fundamental amplitude variation signal indicating the fundamental amplitude variation of the push-pull signal based directly on the push-pull signal.”

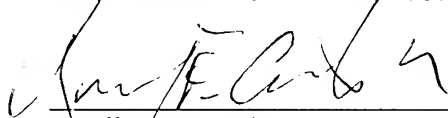
As discussed above with respect to Claim 1, Yokoi does not teach or suggest generating a “fundamental amplitude variation of the push-pull signal,” as recited in Claim 9.

Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) of Claim 9 and Claims 10 and 11, which depend therefrom, be withdrawn.

Accordingly, the outstanding rejections are traversed and the pending claims are believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is, therefore, respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Bradley D. Lytle
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 40,073

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 08/07)
I:\ATTY\UMP\24's\243659US\243659US AMND4.DOC

Raymond F. Cardillo, Jr.
Registration No. 40,440